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DIARY NOTES

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DD/S

25 November 1961

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1. [REDACTED] and I met with the Director, Dick Bissell, [REDACTED], and General Cabell this morning to discuss our budget situation. The meeting lasted almost two hours and I think that the Director was fairly well briefed on the differences which we now have with the Bureau of the Budget. There will be a meeting on Monday, 27 November, presided by Elmer Staats at which the Director, Alexis Johnson of the Department of State, and Ed Murrow of USIA will be present. At my suggestion the Director decided to have Dick Bissell and [REDACTED] at this meeting and to avoid a discussion of our budget generally.

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2. At the conclusion of our meeting on the budget, the Director turned to me and asked whether everything was all set for the ceremony on Tuesday, 28 November, when the President was coming to the new building. He said, "You are in charge of this, aren't you?" I replied emphatically that I was not in charge of the ceremony and that I did not know whether everything was all set! He said that he thought I was in charge, to which I replied, "No, Mr. Kirkpatrick is in charge." The Director then asked, "Who appointed Mr. Kirkpatrick?" I told him that I did not know but that I very definitely was not in charge and had no responsibility for the ceremony. He seemed to be quite upset at this and said that he had not appointed Mr. Kirkpatrick as the ring master and had assumed that I was in charge; in fact, he went on to say that he understood from his conversations with Mr. Kirkpatrick that I was handling all the details. I assured him that this was not so. He indicated that perhaps this should be reversed; I replied that this would have been all right if it had started out that way but that I didn't care to assume this responsibility at this late date. However, the Director indicated that he would like me to review all the arrangements and satisfy myself that they were "O.K." He instructed Mr. [REDACTED] to call Mr. Kirkpatrick and so inform him. Later in the morning Mr. Kirkpatrick called to say that everything was all set and that he would be glad to fill me in, as well as the Director and the other Deputies, at the morning meeting on Monday, 27 November.

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